

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2560

To create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation’s unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2008

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation’s unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act of
6 2007”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF UNACCOMPANIED SITUATIONS AMONG
CHILD WELFARE GROUPS

- Sec. 101. Curtailment of involuntary separation of children from their families.
 Sec. 102. Unaccompanied youth access to the child welfare system.
 Sec. 103. Discharge from child welfare system.

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO OLDER YOUTH

- Sec. 201. Eligibility for foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance payments through age 20.
 Sec. 202. Improvements to John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

TITLE III—YOUNG FAMILY CONCERNS

- Sec. 301. TANF State plan amendment.
 Sec. 302. Adult-supervised living arrangements.
 Sec. 303. Suspension of time limit for young adult parent involved in education or training.
 Sec. 304. Transitional compliance.
 Sec. 305. Sanction protections for minor parents.
 Sec. 306. Teen parent study and report.

TITLE IV—WORK OPPORTUNITIES

- Sec. 401. Inclusion of homeless youth as qualified population for Work Opportunity Credit.

1 TITLE I—PREVENTION OF UNAC- 2 COMPANIED SITUATIONS 3 AMONG CHILD WELFARE 4 GROUPS

5 SEC. 101. CURTAILMENT OF INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OF 6 CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES.

7 Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 8 671(a)) is amended—

- 9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
 10 (26);
 11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
 12 graph (27) and inserting “; and”; and
 13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(28) provides that the State shall have in ef-
 2 fect such laws and procedures as are necessary to
 3 ensure that—

4 “(A) a child may not be placed in foster
 5 care under the responsibility of the State solely
 6 because the family with which the child is living
 7 is homeless (as defined in paragraph (2) of sec-
 8 tion 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
 9 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)) or living in
 10 substandard housing (as defined in section
 11 204(b)(11) of the National Housing Act) or a
 12 dwelling unit that is experiencing severe phys-
 13 ical problems (as defined in subparagraph (F)
 14 of such section); and

15 “(B) the State will work with the family
 16 and State housing authorities to secure perma-
 17 nent housing for any family that includes a
 18 minor child and is homeless or at risk of becom-
 19 ing homeless.”.

20 **SEC. 102. GAO REPORT ON UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AC-**
 21 **CESS TO THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.**

22 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment
 23 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
 24 shall submit a report to the Committee on Ways and
 25 Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee

1 on Finance of the Senate on the policies and practices of
 2 States regarding access to child welfare services (including
 3 services related to foster care and adoption) that are fi-
 4 nanced pursuant to part B or E of title IV of the Social
 5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) by children who have
 6 attained 13 years of age and that considers the use of
 7 runaway and homeless situations as risk assessment fac-
 8 tors for determining the appropriateness of placement in
 9 the child welfare system. Such report shall include—

- 10 (1) an inventory of such policies and practices;
- 11 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of such
- 12 policies and practices; and
- 13 (3) recommendations for such Federal or State
- 14 legislation or administrative action as the Comp-
- 15 troller General determines appropriate.

16 **SEC. 103. DISCHARGE FROM CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.**

17 (a) STATE PLANS REQUIRED TO DESCRIBE STATE
 18 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING RUNAWAY OR
 19 MISSING FOSTER CHILDREN.—Section 471(a) of the So-
 20 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)), as amended by sec-
 21 tion 101, is amended—

- 22 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
- 23 (27);
- 24 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
- 25 graph (28) and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(29) describes the written policies and proce-
 3 dures of the State that are designed to reduce the
 4 incidence of children missing or running away from
 5 foster care, and to locate and return such children
 6 to foster placements.”.

7 (b) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PERMANENCY PLAN FOR
 8 CHILD LEAVING FOSTER CARE.—Section 475(5)(C) of
 9 such Act (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(C)) is amended—

10 (1) by striking “and (iii)” and inserting “(iii)”;
 11 and

12 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end
 13 the following: “; and (iv) procedural safeguards shall
 14 be applied to assure that the final permanency hear-
 15 ing regarding the transition of the child from foster
 16 care to a planned, permanent living arrangement or
 17 independent living is held in a family or juvenile
 18 court or another court (including a tribal court) of
 19 competent jurisdiction;”.

20 (c) REVIEW OF STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE APPRO-
 21 PRIATE HOUSING FOR CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER
 22 CARE.—Section 475(5)(C)(iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 23 675(5)(C)(iii)) is amended by inserting “, and reviews all
 24 documentation of the efforts to secure a permanent living

1 arrangement for the child upon emancipation from foster
2 care” before “; and”.

3 (d) MODIFICATION OF CASE PLAN REQUIRE-
4 MENTS.—Section 475(1)(D) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
5 675(1)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(D) Where appropriate, for a child who
7 has attained 14 years of age (and, at State op-
8 tion, any other child), a written description of
9 the programs and services that will facilitate
10 the transition of the child from foster care to
11 independent living, including a discussion of the
12 appropriateness of the services that have been
13 provided to the child under the plan. The plan
14 for such child shall also include documentation
15 of the steps the agency is taking to ensure a
16 permanent placement with a family or other
17 adult connection for the child, and a permanent
18 living arrangement. In the case of a child who
19 has attained 17 years of age or with a perma-
20 nency goal of emancipation, the plan shall in-
21 clude documentation of the child’s permanent
22 living arrangement upon emancipation.”.

1 **TITLE II—EXTENSION OF CHILD**
 2 **WELFARE SERVICES TO**
 3 **OLDER YOUTH**

4 **SEC. 201. ELIGIBILITY FOR FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE**
 5 **PAYMENTS AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAY-**
 6 **MENTS THROUGH AGE 20.**

7 (a) FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS.—Sec-
 8 tion 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) is
 9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
 12 ing the following:

13 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Each State with a plan ap-
 14 proved under this part shall make foster care main-
 15 tenance payments on behalf of—

16 “(A) each child who has been removed
 17 from the home of a relative specified in section
 18 406(a) (as in effect on July 16, 1996) into fos-
 19 ter care if the removal and foster care place-
 20 ment met, and the placement continues to meet,
 21 the requirements of paragraph (2) of this sub-
 22 section; and

23 “(B) each child who is an individual de-
 24 scribed in subsection (j)(2) of this section who
 25 has entered foster care under the responsibility

1 of the State if the foster care placement met
 2 and continues to meet the requirements of
 3 paragraph (3) of this subsection.”;

4 (B) in the heading of paragraph (2), by in-
 5 serting “APPLICABLE TO MINORS” after “RE-
 6 QUIREMENTS”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(5) FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT REQUIRE-
 9 MENTS APPLICABLE TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE AT-
 10 TAINED THE AGE OF MAJORITY.—The foster care
 11 placement of a child who is an individual described
 12 in subsection (j)(2) meets the requirements of this
 13 paragraph if—

14 “(A) the foster care placement is in ac-
 15 cordance with a voluntary placement agreement
 16 entered into by the individual;

17 “(B) the individual’s placement and care
 18 meet the requirement of paragraph (2)(B) of
 19 this subsection; and

20 “(C)(i) the individual has been placed in a
 21 foster family home, child-care institution, or
 22 dwelling described in subsection (b)(3)(C); or

23 “(ii) the individual has secured a dwelling
 24 described in subsection (b)(3)(D).”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-
2 graph (1);

3 (B) by striking the period at the end of
4 paragraph (2) and inserting “, or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) in the case of a child who is an individual
7 described in subsection (j)(2)—

8 “(A) in a home described in paragraph (1),
9 in accordance with the payment rules set forth
10 in paragraph (1);

11 “(B) in an institution described in para-
12 graph (2), in accordance with the payment rules
13 set forth in paragraph (2);

14 “(C) in a dwelling operated by an agency
15 that provides social services to children and
16 their families which supplements, supports, or
17 substitutes parental care and supervision for
18 the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the
19 welfare of children, and that meets such stand-
20 ards for licensure or approval as are established
21 by the State for the provision of the services,
22 whether the payments therefor are made to the
23 agency or directly to the individual; or

24 “(D) in housing rented or leased by the in-
25 dividual.”;

1 (3) in subsection (e), by inserting “minor” be-
 2 fore “child who”;

3 (4) in subsection (f)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “a minor” and insert-
 6 ing “a child”; and

7 (ii) by striking “the minor” and in-
 8 serting “the child (or, if the child has at-
 9 tained 18 years of age, the child himself or
 10 herself)”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) by striking “a minor child” and in-
 13 serting “a child (or, if the child has at-
 14 tained 18 years of age, the child himself or
 15 herself)”; and

16 (ii) by inserting “(if the child is a
 17 minor)” after “obligations of the parents
 18 or guardians”; and

19 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 20 section:

21 “(j) In this section, the term ‘child’ means—

22 “(1) a minor child; and

23 “(2) an individual who—

24 “(A) has not attained 21 years of age; and

1 “(B) has been emancipated from foster
2 care under the responsibility of the State by
3 reason of attaining the age of majority.”.

4 (b) ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 473(a)(1)(A) of such
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(1)(A)) is amended by insert-
7 ing “who have not attained 21 years of age” after
8 “special needs”.

9 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
10 473(a)(4)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 673(a)(4)(A))
11 is amended by striking “the age of eighteen” and all
12 that follows through “twenty-one” and inserting “21
13 years of age”.

14 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1)
15 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)) is amended by striking
16 “under section 472 for children in foster family homes or
17 child-care institutions” and inserting “in accordance with
18 section 472”.

19 **SEC. 202. IMPROVEMENTS TO JOHN H. CHAFEE FOSTER**
20 **CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM.**

21 (a) INCREASE IN ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION
22 LEVEL.—Section 477(h)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 677(h)(1)) is amended by striking “\$140,000,000”
24 and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

1 (b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—

2 Section 477 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “18” and
5 inserting “14”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “between
7 18 and 21” and inserting “who have attained
8 18 years of age, and who have not attained 25
9 years of age”;

10 (2) in each of subsections (b)(3)(A) and
11 (b)(3)(B), by striking “21” and inserting “25”;

12 (3) in subsection (i)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “youths
14 adopted from foster care after attaining age
15 16” and inserting “youths in or exiting from
16 foster care after attaining 14 years of age”; and

17 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignig-
18 nating paragraphs (4) through (6) as para-
19 graphs (3) through (5), respectively.

20 (c) AUTHORITY TO USE PROGRAM FUNDS TO PRO-
21 VIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES AND EDUCATION
22 AND TRAINING VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN WHO EXIT
23 FOSTER CARE TO GUARDIANSHIP OR ADOPTION AFTER
24 AGE 14.—

1 (1) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES.—Section
2 477(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(a)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
4 graph (5);

5 (B) by striking the period at the end of
6 paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(7) to provide the services referred to in this
9 subsection to children who, after attaining 14 years
10 of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship
11 or adoption.”.

12 (2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS.—
13 Section 477(i)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(i)(2))
14 is amended by striking “from foster care after at-
15 taining age 16” and inserting “or entering kinship
16 guardianship from foster care after attaining 14
17 years of age”.

18 (d) ELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS
19 FOR FUNDS.—Section 477(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
20 677(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(G) Distribute funds provided to the
22 State under this section among a diverse range
23 of qualified providers of services that are pri-
24 vate entities, and ensure that the entities have
25 equal opportunity to receive the funds.”.

1 (e) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM EVALUATIONS.—Sec-
 2 tion 477(g)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(g)(1)) is
 3 amended—

4 (1) in the first sentence, by inserting “, and of
 5 model programs that focus on improving outcomes
 6 for youth aging out of care in the areas of edu-
 7 cation, employment, personal development, and
 8 housing” after “significance”;

9 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “and
 10 personal development” and inserting “mental and
 11 physical health, personal development, and housing,
 12 and on the use of room and board services and how
 13 the use of the services improve housing outcomes for
 14 youth”; and

15 (3) in the third sentence, by inserting “, where
 16 practicable,” before “random assignment”.

17 (f) IMPROVING AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE SERV-
 18 ICES.—

19 (1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 477
 20 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677) is amended by adding
 21 at the end the following new subsection:

22 “(j) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER
 23 RELATED PROGRAMS.—To improve access to the array of
 24 services available to youth transitioning out of foster care
 25 and assist States in leveraging available resources, the

1 Secretary shall provide for the efficient distribution to
 2 States and local areas of information about Federal pro-
 3 grams, other than the program established by this section,
 4 that may assist youth in their transition to self-sufficiency
 5 and provide guidance on how to access services under the
 6 programs.”.

7 (2) DUTIES OF THE STATE.—Section 477(b)(3)
 8 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 677(b)(3)) is amended—

9 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H)
 10 through (J) as subparagraphs (I) through (K),
 11 respectively; and

12 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
 13 the following:

14 “(G) A certification by the chief executive offi-
 15 cer that, when or before a child leaves foster care
 16 under the responsibility of the State, the State will
 17 inform the child of the full range of available finan-
 18 cial, housing, counseling, health, public benefit em-
 19 ployment, and education services, and other appro-
 20 priate support and services for which the child is eli-
 21 gible.”.

TITLE III—YOUNG FAMILY CONCERNS

3 SEC. 301. TANF STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.

4 Section 402(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 602(a)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the
6 following new clause:

7 “(vii) Identify the education and
8 training, living arrangement, and other
9 services needs of individuals described in
10 section 408(a)(5)(B)(ii) who are potentially
11 eligible to receive assistance under the
12 State program funded under this part and
13 establish policies, procedures, and strate-
14 gies to address the needs.”.

15 SEC. 302. ADULT-SUPERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS.

16 Section 408(a)(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 608(a)(5)(B)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(i) PROVISION OF ADULT-SUPER-
21 VISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.—In the case
22 of an individual who is described in clause
23 (ii), the State agency referred to in section
24 402(a)(4) shall provide or ensure the pro-
25 vision of a second chance home, maternity

group home, transitional living youth project, or other appropriate adult-supervised supportive living arrangement, taking into consideration the needs, concerns, and wishes of the individual, unless the State agency determines that the individual's current living arrangement is appropriate, and therefore, shall require that the individual and the minor child referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) reside in such living arrangement as a condition of the continued receipt of assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government (or in an alternative appropriate arrangement, should circumstances change and the current arrangement cease to be appropriate).”;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (III) and (IV) as subclauses (V) and (VI), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

1 “(III) the individual is a home-
 2 less youth;

3 “(IV) the individual is a street
 4 youth;”;

5 (3) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (vi)
 6 and inserting after clause (ii) the following:

7 “(iii) DISCLOSURE OF ADULT-SUPER-
 8 VISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT OPTIONS TO
 9 INDIVIDUAL.—The State agency shall en-
 10 sure that individuals described in subpara-
 11 graph (A)(ii) who are applicants or recipi-
 12 ents of assistance are fully informed of all
 13 adult-supervised living arrangement op-
 14 tions that satisfy the requirement of this
 15 subsection, and provide the individual the
 16 opportunity to request a specific adult-su-
 17 pervised living arrangement.

18 “(iv) DETERMINATION OF ADULT-SU-
 19 PERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.—In de-
 20 termining the appropriateness of the indi-
 21 vidual’s current living arrangement in
 22 clause (i) and considering the individual’s
 23 request for a specific adult-supervised liv-
 24 ing arrangement in clause (iii), the State
 25 agency shall provide a written explanation

1 of the determination, including a statement
 2 regarding the right to appeal the deter-
 3 mination under clause (v), to the indi-
 4 vidual, if the determination is other than
 5 the adult-supervised living arrangement re-
 6 quested by the individual.

7 “(v) RIGHT TO APPEAL ADULT-SU-
 8 PERVISED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.—If the
 9 State agency’s determination of appro-
 10 priate adult-supervised living arrangement
 11 in clause (i) is other than the adult-super-
 12 vised living arrangement requested by the
 13 individual in clause (iii), the individual
 14 shall have a right to appeal the State agen-
 15 cy’s decision through appeal and dispute
 16 resolution mechanisms available in the
 17 State.”; and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(vi) DEFINITIONS.—In this subpara-
 20 graph:

21 “(I) TRANSITIONAL LIVING
 22 YOUTH PROJECT.—The term ‘transi-
 23 tional living youth project’ has the
 24 same meaning as provided in section

387(6) of the Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

“(II) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The
term ‘homeless youth’ has the same
meaning as provided in section 387(3)
of the Juvenile Justice and Delin-
quency Prevention Act of 1974.

“(III) STREET YOUTH.—The
term ‘street youth’ has the same
meaning as provided in section 387(5)
of the Juvenile Justice and Delin-
quency Prevention Act of 1974.”.

**SEC. 303. SUSPENSION OF TIME LIMIT FOR YOUNG ADULT
PARENT INVOLVED IN EDUCATION OR TRAIN-
ING.**

Section 408(a)(7)(B) of the Social Security Act (42
U.S.C. 608(a)(7)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “MINOR CHILD
EXCEPTION” and inserting “AGE EXCEPTIONS”; and

(2) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting
the following:

“(i) a minor child, and not the head
of a household or married to the head of
a household; or

“(ii) was pregnant or a parent, and—

1 “(I) had not attained 20 years of
 2 age, and was meeting all program re-
 3 quirements relating to education,
 4 training and living arrangements; or
 5 “(II) had attained 20 but not 21
 6 years of age, and was scheduled to
 7 complete all program requirements re-
 8 lating to education or training.”.

9 **SEC. 304. TRANSITIONAL COMPLIANCE.**

10 Section 408(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 608(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “if” and all
 13 that follows and inserting “if—

14 “(A) the individual does not participate
 15 in—

16 “(i) educational activities directed to-
 17 ward the attainment of a high school di-
 18 ploma or its equivalent; or

19 “(ii) an alternative educational or
 20 training program that has been approved
 21 by the State; and

22 “(B) 91 days have elapsed since the State
 23 has notified the individual that the individual is
 24 in violation of this paragraph.”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (5)(A)(i), by inserting “, and
2 91 days have elapsed since the State has notified the
3 individual that the individual is in violation of this
4 paragraph” before the period.

5 **SEC. 305. SANCTION PROTECTIONS FOR MINOR PARENTS.**

6 Section 408(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 608(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(12) A State to which a grant is made under
9 section 403 of this Act shall not impose a sanction
10 on a recipient of assistance under the State program
11 funded under this part who is an individual de-
12 scribed in paragraph (4) or (5)(B)(ii) of this sub-
13 section and whose household includes a minor who
14 has received assistance under the State program
15 funded under this part attributable to funds pro-
16 vided by the Federal Government or under the food
17 stamp program, as defined in section 3(h) of the
18 Food Stamp Act of 1977, unless the State has es-
19 tablished procedures that help recipients of assist-
20 ance under the State program funded under this
21 part understand, avoid, or end sanctions, and has
22 applied the procedures to the recipient.”.

23 **SEC. 306. TEEN PARENT STUDY AND REPORT.**

24 Section 413 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 613) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(k) TEEN PARENT STUDY AND REPORT.—

2 “(1) STUDY OF TANF RECIPIENTS.—The Sec-
3 retary shall conduct a study of recipients of assist-
4 ance under State programs funded under this part
5 who are parents and have not attained 20 years of
6 age to determine the following:

7 “(A) Whether State data on the number of
8 such recipients is accurately reflected in Fed-
9 eral data, including an examination of the ex-
10 tent to which such recipients who are members
11 of a family are not reflected in the data, and
12 an examination of the extent to which Federal
13 estimation methods do not reflect the number
14 of such recipients in a State.

15 “(B) What assessment procedures are uti-
16 lized with such recipients, and whether there
17 appear to be best practices that consider such
18 issues as whether the recipient has an edu-
19 cational barrier such as a learning disability or
20 mental health problem.

21 “(C) Whether localities appear to have
22 adequate and appropriate services that meet the
23 needs of such recipients in areas such as infant
24 care, education, training, and mental health, for
25 services such as appropriate housing, mental

1 health, and alternative education, whether staff
2 assist teen parents in researching and locating
3 such services including an appropriate living ar-
4 rangement, and the extent to which such recipi-
5 ents who have not completed high school or the
6 equivalent are encouraged to engage in edu-
7 cation or work.

8 “(D) How State rules providing that, in
9 determining the eligibility of such recipients for
10 such assistance, the income of the recipient is
11 deemed to include the income of any parents
12 with whom such recipient is living appear to
13 have affected the extent to which such recipi-
14 ents who are members of a family with income
15 less than 200 percent of the poverty line (as de-
16 fined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget
17 Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any revi-
18 sion required by such section, applicable to a
19 family of the size involved) are able to partici-
20 pate in State programs funded under this part.

21 “(E) Demographic information such as—

22 “(i) the age of such recipients;

23 “(ii) the amount of time such recipi-
24 ents received such assistance in a given
25 year;

1 “(iii) the number of children that
2 such recipients have;

3 “(iv) school attainment by such recipi-
4 ents, by age;

5 “(v) the employment status of such
6 recipients, such as whether a recipient has
7 ever worked or has worked while in school;

8 “(vi) the child care arrangements of
9 such recipients; and

10 “(vii) the living arrangements of such
11 recipients.

12 “(2) STUDY OF LOW-INCOME TEEN PARENTS
13 WHO ARE NOT TANF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary
14 shall conduct a study of a representative sample of
15 low-income (as determined by the Secretary) teen
16 parents who are not recipients of assistance under a
17 State program funded under this part, to determine
18 the following:

19 “(A) Whether the teen parent sought to
20 apply for such assistance.

21 “(B) Whether a teen parent who indicated
22 to a State a desire to apply for such assistance
23 received an application for such assistance.

24 “(C) Whether a teen parent who applied
25 for such assistance was subsequently contacted

1 by the State agency responsible for operating a
2 State program funded under this part.

3 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
5 after the date of enactment of this subsection,
6 the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress
7 that contains the findings of the studies re-
8 quired by this subsection and recommendations
9 regarding such issues as how to improve data
10 reporting, State plans, State ‘best practice’ in-
11 formation sharing, and assessments.

12 “(B) ADVISORY GROUP.—The Secretary
13 shall establish an advisory group consisting of
14 representatives from organizations that work
15 with parents who have not attained 20 years of
16 age, to provide advice to the Secretary on ques-
17 tions relating to such parents that should be in-
18 vestigated and to provide comments to accom-
19 pany the recommendations contained in the re-
20 port under subparagraph (A).”.

TITLE IV—WORK OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 401. INCLUSION OF HOMELESS YOUTH AS QUALIFIED POPULATION FOR WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (I) and inserting “, or”, and adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J) a qualified homeless youth.”.

(b) QUALIFIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—Subsection (d) of section 51 of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (13) as paragraphs (12) through (14), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraph:

“(11) QUALIFIED HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term ‘qualified homeless youth’ means any individual who is certified by the designated local agency—

“(A) as having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date; and

“(B) as being described in paragraph (2) of section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a), as in effect

1 on the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
2 on the hiring date.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for
5 the employer after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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